

Zobennan. His article centers around a trip he recently made to Israel.

Rabbi Zoberman is spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach. Born in Chu, Kazakhstan, in 1945, and raised in Haifa, Israel, he lived in Israel of 1949 to 1966.

In the midst of renewed cautious hope to overcome the deadly impasse between Palestinians and Israelis through implementation of the Roadmap, I had the opportunity to witness the resumption of the very lively Israeli way of life during this cease-fire (Hudna in Arabic) period accepted by the Palestinian terror organizations.

The solidarity mission sponsored by my Reform movement whose hallmark is prophetic values, focused on social justice issues in the Jewish state. We were exposed to inspiring efforts to make a difference on the internal front in spite of on-going security concerns. For that will ultimately determine the very quality of Israeli society and the meaning of a challenged yet enduring Zionist enterprise. Surely a nation's strength is a function of its social climate and democratic vitality even more so than its undergirding and reflective military might. But only peace allows for the essential societal flourishing which budded prior to the onset of the Second Intifada and the latter's back setting impact when Chairman Arafat chose the path of destruction over that of dialogue.

A major concern remains the welfare and integration of the 1,200,000 Israeli Arabs who live along five million Jews. While the Arab population in Israel proper has made progress, it still lags behind the Jewish majority socially, economically and educationally. The wide gap is bound to create understandable resentment and dangerous alienation with Israeli Arabs already undergoing troubling Palestinization and Muslim radicalization leading to terrorist acts which work against them, playing into the hands of those who claim they cannot be trusted. The state of war with Israel's Arab and Palestinian antagonists has exacerbated matters, though neglect will only fester a wound whose healing is essential for Israel's long-term well-being. Our group was addressed by volunteer Jewish members of "Sikkuy" (meaning a chance) which includes Arab counterparts and offers training to empower Arab municipalities as well as encourage their women to become leaders. We toured the Lower Galilee mountain range, discussing the disadvantaged Arab community in receiving state allocations, the attempt to improve the weak demographic Jewish presence, and the urgent need to improve communication between the two groups.

At the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon we visited the pediatric intensive care unit and saw children kept alive by the unique Israeli project Save A Child's Heart (SACH). It was founded in 1995 by the late American born legendary cardio-thoracic surgeon, Dr. Ami Cohen. A nurse on the hospital team was trained at our own King's Daughters in Norfolk. I was particularly moved by a Palestinian mother and her infant son from the Gaza Strip. The boy is among over 800 children from developing countries, a third from the Palestinian areas, who have benefited from the program which is supported by private funds, volunteer medical care and hostel service when necessary. There was no interruption of service to Palestinians when devastating suicide bombings took place in nearby Tel Aviv and Netanya, and space was needed for emergency treatment of victims. Imprisoned Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti on terrorism charges had a family baby treated there. Also a free clinic offered services to over 3,000 Palestinians. To save a life, any life, is a supreme sacred Jewish act practiced lovingly by Israelis.

In Jerusalem near the Machene Yehuda marketplace and its lingering memory of a suicide bombing, a community center embraces a most diverse neighborhood of religious and secular Jews, Arabs, Palestinians, foreign workers, haves and have nots. They benefit from a joint educational program where the children of all are attended to. We also lent moral support to demonstrating single parents, mostly women, encamped in tents outside the Knesset (Parliament). They are upset over their subsidies cut following an Israeli version of the "Wisconsin Plan," as Israel is moving more and more from a welfare state to a capitalistic one, leaving the weaker classes behind, thus creating a potential social explosion also in the Jewish majority.

In Haifa, where I grew up, I stunningly paused to offer a memorial prayer at the site of last March's terrorist attack claiming seventeen lives, at the bus stop I use to visit my aging parents. Guards are still posted at the entrance to public places, checking bags and reassuring people. Tears welled up in me upon hearing the breaking news that six elderly Iraqi Jews were brought home to Israel in a special operation representing practically the last survivors of a 2000 year old great exiled Jewry. What a reminder of what a resilient Israel is all about with the complexities and contradictions of a violated yet valiant land!

REMEMBERING STATE SENATOR AND COOK COUNTY JUDGE ROBERT J. EGAN

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of a respected and exceptional public servant for the people of Chicago, the Honorable Robert J. Egan, who passed away on September 15, 2003.

Robert Egan was born in Elmhurst in 1931. In 1958, he married his lovely wife Marie. Together they had five wonderful children, Beth, Margie, Sarah, Robert Jr., and Frank and four grandchildren, Tony, Meggy, Kaitlyn and Sarah.

Judge Egan served as a first lieutenant from 1954–1956 in the U.S. Army infantry in Korea. He then worked his way through law school at Loyola University and was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1959. He later joined the Illinois Attorney General's Office, where he served as Chief Legislative Counsel and Chief Attorney in its antitrust division.

In 1970, Judge Egan was elected to the Illinois State Senate. Although defeated in 1972, he was subsequently reelected in 1974. He served in the Senate until 1984.

During his first year in the State Senate, Judge Egan sponsored seven anticrime measures that were enacted into law. He also was a leader in the movement to strengthen sentences for serious and repeat offenders.

Judge was his last title, gained when he was appointed to the Cook County Circuit Court in 1987. He retired from the bench in 1988.

From 1990–1999, he served on the review board of the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the people of the northwest side of the City of Chicago in recognizing the life of Robert Egan, and wish to ex-

press my deep sense of sorrow to Marie and the rest of Robert's loving family.

TO CONGRATULATE AND HONOR FELIX AND SOLEDAD CORONA FOR THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a couple who will soon celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary and to honor their outstanding contributions to our community in Phoenix, Arizona.

Felix came to the United States as a migrant worker, toiling the fertile fields of California in the late 40's working for the Acosta Company. In 1950 he accepted a construction position refurbishing the Sacramento Fairgrounds. He worked very hard so that he could send money back home to his beloved family. Mexico was never far from his heart and he would visit when time allowed. On one of his trips back home in 1950 he met Soledad. He returned to California to continue to help support his brothers and sisters but his heart was in Autlan, Jalisco where he returned in 1952 to work and on September 29, 1953 Felix and Soledad were married in the company of friends and family. Felix worked for the Mexico Department of Geology and Minerals from 1952 to 1957. The young couple had their first son, Juan Manuel in 1956 followed by their first daughter Maria in 1957.

Felix and Soledad made the difficult decision of leaving loved ones and moving to the United States. They knew that their future and that of their children was in the North. They maintained a fierce loyalty to the family that they left behind and continued to help fund and educate their siblings while living in their new adopted home.

The Coronas first worked as laborers on the Dansie Farm in Northern California. They wanted to achieve the American dream for themselves and their children and in 1958 they developed a company that helped ranchers cultivate their crops.

During this time the young family grew to include six more children, all born in Marysville, California. They welcomed Armando in 1958, Teresa in 1959, Esperanza in 1961, Hector in 1962, Alex in 1964 and Beatrice in 1965.

In 1967, Felix started what has been a rich legacy of success, achievement and accomplishment when he formed a partnership with life long friends, Raul Ybarra, Albert Rodriguez and Francisco Mejia. They owned and operated Spanish Movie houses in Marysville, San Jose, San Bernardino and Orange County.

In 1970, Felix, Soledad and all eight children moved to Phoenix, Arizona to expand the business. They ran the Palace West Theater from 1970 to 1987. During that time, they saw the need for expanding the Hispanic family entertainment in Arizona and they met that need by opening the Cine Mexico in Chandler in 1979 and the Hayden West Plaza in 1980.

This was a busy time for the young and ambitious family, running a couple of restaurants such as the Courtroom Restaurant in downtown Phoenix as well as a record distribution